

'Oklahoma' Production Smash Hit At East Central Jr. College

By JIMMY PIGFORD

The phrase "a Rogers-and-Hammerstein musical" is a hallmark of authentically superb entertainment and the East Central Junior College's production of "Oklahoma" this week proved no exception.

"Oklahoma", the grand-daddy of all our musicals, was kept briskly skipping along under the excellent direction of Bruce Peterson; it had very few slow moments and was always a delight to the eye.

The 13-piece orchestra, conducted by S. G. Seymore, deserved a standing ovation for it did more than justice to a

score that contains some of Rogers' most beautiful songs and Hammerstein's most memorable lyrics.

Proving that the show has not lost its freshness and charm in twenty-seven years, were "Oklahoma" stars Van Mitchell and Brenda Jones.

Mitchell was a perfectly cast "Curley" with his wonderful singing voice, his state movements and of course, his "curl hair".

The petite and pretty Mitchell Jones, playing "Laurey", completely threw herself into character and stayed there. Her voice and acting would make

any audience happy.

One of the great things about this play is all the principals have their moments, completely to themselves — and David Rives as "Will" makes the most of his! The blond Mr. Rives, looking like Glen Campbell's kid brother, made every motion count whether it was the raising of an arm or his eyes to the heavens. One would easily excuse not being able to hear every word of his songs at times because his acting was so perfect.

To "Ado Annie" — that fascinating "Ado Annie" — who could have been cuter, fresher and more likeable than Joan Greene? The audience loved her song, "I Can't Say No".

Wanda Comans made a warm and amusing Aunt Eller. She seemed to get better as the show progressed and really shined in the second act.

The Chorus left nothing to be desired, they always sounded good and their re-actions to what was happening on the stage were excellent.

Now comes the amazing part — the dancing. I thought some of the numbers would surely be

cut, knowing how hard it is to get males to look good dancing on stage. But no — everything was left in from "The Farmer and the Cowman" dance to the "Dream Ballet". Who did it? East Central Jr. College's football and basketball players — and what coordination! They were always perfectly at ease and seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. Much, much credit is due Ovid Vickers, who choreographed the production.

The sets, on a stage which hasn't much right or left wing, were very good. The white and maroon farmhouse and the turnabout smoke house were more than satisfactory, even if the 1900 smoke house did have a 1970 centerfold from Playboy magazine pinned to the wall. If there were any weaknesses, and what play doesn't have a few, it was in the lighting. The modern, comfortable ECJC auditorium is in bad need of a spotlight in the rear to pin point action.

Others in the cast who are to be congratulated are Terry McMillan, Sonny Hardy, Brenda Tucker, Ronny White, Mike Edwards, Mark Hatcher, Kenneth Gressett, Junior Moore, Barbara Ezelle, Dianne Hollingsworth, Bettye Valentine and Elizabeth Edwards.

"Oklahoma" will be presented at East Central Junior College thru Wednesday night. Curtain time is eight o'clock. It is well worth the drive to Decatur to see it, you won't be disappointed for this is a stunning, first-rate musical that should make the Junior College administration very, very proud.

East Central Community College
presents

Rodgers and Hammerstein's

OKLAHOMA!





Music by Richard Rodgers

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Based on the play *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Lynn Riggs

Original Dances by Agnes de Mille

April 15th, 16th & 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium

Tickets \$10.⁰⁰

For more information, call 635-2111



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EAST CENTRAL JUNIOR COLLEGE

presents

RODGERS and HAMMERSTEIN'S

"OKLAHOMA"

Music by
RICHARD RODGERS

Book and Lyrics by
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Based on LYNN RIGG'S "GREEN GROW THE LILACS"
as originally produced by THE THEATRE GUILD

Directed by
BRUCE PETERSON

Musical Direction by
MARIAN THORNTON
S. G. SEYMORE

Choreography by
OVID VICKERS

Chairman of Division of Music
R. G. FICK

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 - 15, 1970
At 8 O'clock P. M.

FINE ARTS CENTER
EAST CENTRAL JUNIOR COLLEGE

— CAST OF CHARACTERS —

Curley	Van Mitchell
Laurey	Brenda Jones
Aunt Eller	Wanda Comans
Ado Annie	Joan Greene
Will Parker	David Rives
Ali Hakim	Terry McMillan
Jud Fry	Sonny Hardy
Gertie Cummings	Brenda Tucker
Andrew Carnes	Ronny White
Slim	Mike Edwards
Ike Skidmore	Mark Hatcher
Cord Elam	Kenneth Gressett
Fred	Junior Moore
Vivienne	Barbara Sue Ezelle
Faye	Dianne Hollingsworth
Ellen	Bettye Valentine
Virginia	Elizabeth Edwards

THE "DREAM" BALLET

Laurey	Beverly Hollingsworth
Curley	Terry Beckham

DANCING GIRLS AND COWBOYS

Cindy Cornelius, Susan Madden, Debbie Pearson, Sue Withers, Katha Kennedy, Beverly Hollingsworth, Kitty Wagner, Bill Griffis, Dale Stewart, Larry Cooper, Jerry Cooper, Gary Gordon, Terry Beckham.

COWBOYS, FARMERS, AND THEIR WOMEN

Audrey Boggan, Sam Bounds, Marcia Beard, Debra Crowell, Sandra Eakes, Hilda Edwards, Wanda Fowler, Joyce Freeman, Rebecca Gardner, Gwen Hardin, Peggy Hollingsworth, Betty Logan, Mary Ann McDonald, Pam Webb, Linda Wicker.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

TIME: Just after the turn of the century.

PLACE: Indian territory (now Oklahoma).

ACT ONE

Scene One: Laurey's Farmhouse

"Oh, what a beautiful mornin'" Curley
 "The surrey with the fringe on top" Curley, Aunt Eller, Laurey
 "Kansas City" Will, Aunt Eller, and the Boys
 "I cain't say no" Ado Annie
 "Many a new day" Laurey and the Girls
 "It's a scandal, it's an outrage" Ali Hakim, Boys, and Girls
 "People will say we're in love" Curley and Laurey

Scene Two: The Smoke House

"Pore Jud" Curley and Jud
 "Lonely Room" Jud

Scene Three: A Grove on Laurey's Farm

"Out of my dreams" Laurey and the Girls

INTERMISSION: TEN MINUTES

ACT TWO

Scene One: Laurey's Farmhouse

"The farmer and the cowman" Carnes, Curley, Aunt Eller,
 Ado Annie and the Company
 "All er nuthin'" Ado Annie and Will

Scene Two: Laurey's Farmhouse

"Oklahoma" Curley, Aunt Eller,
 Ike and the Company
 "Finale" The Company

THE "OKLAHOMA" ORCHESTRA

Conducted by S. G. Seymore

Clarinets:

Jackie Edwards
 Marsha Howle

Flute:

Barbara Bonds
 Benita Nanny

Trumpets:

Thomas Pilgrim
 Charles Hudson

Trombones:

Ronald Fuller
 Ted Robinson

French Horns:

Deborah Gordon
 Deborah Pierce

Tuba:

Milton Richardson

Drums:

Danny Burt

Piano:

Paula Simmons

Organ:

Marian Thornton

REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST

Paula Simmons, Jackie Edwards

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR "OKLAHOMA"

Stage Manager Wanda Rushing
Art Director George Alexander
Costumes Brenda Tucker, chairman, Betty Harper,
Sharon Hill, and Amy Johnson
Scenery Marilyn Burrows, chairman, Charles Holdiness, Jan Walton
Make Up Joane Clarke, chairman, Marilyn Burrows, Sherry Cooper,
Katha Kennedy, Henrietta McAdory, Judy Mitchell, Sue
Withers
Publicity Sue Withers, chairman, Betty Stribling, Ray Perry, George
Alexander, and Ovid Vickers

USHERS: May Queen and her Court

Dottie Horn
Patsy Nester
Joyce Tillman
Glenda Jones
Sandra Waggoner
Carolyn Murphy

"OKLAHOMA" produced by special arrangements with
Howard E. Reinheimer of New York

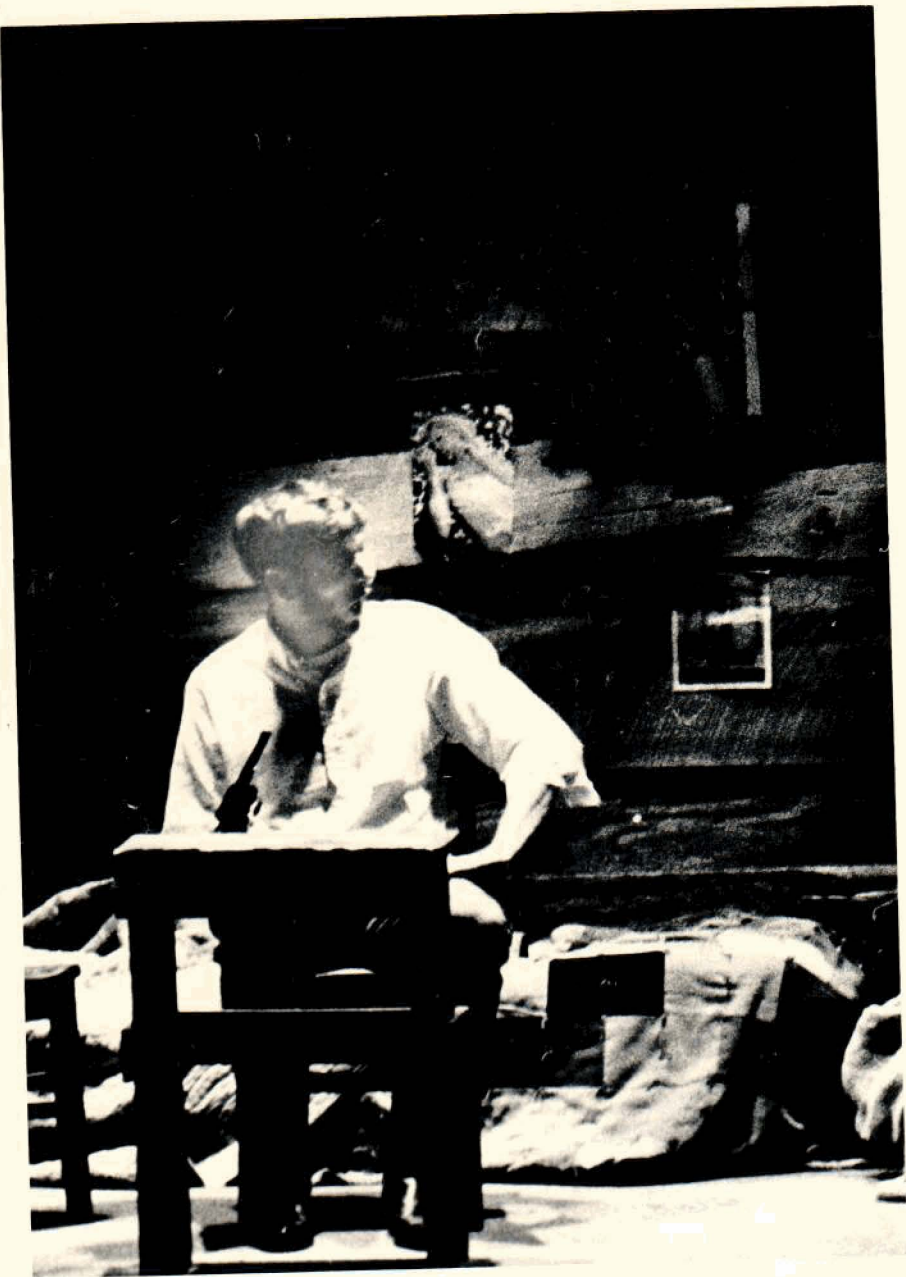


IN APPRECIATION:

Organ: Courtesy of Peavy Music Company, Meridian, Mississippi
Mr. Jimmy Ball, Manager

Props: Courtesy of E. H. Thrash of Sebastopol











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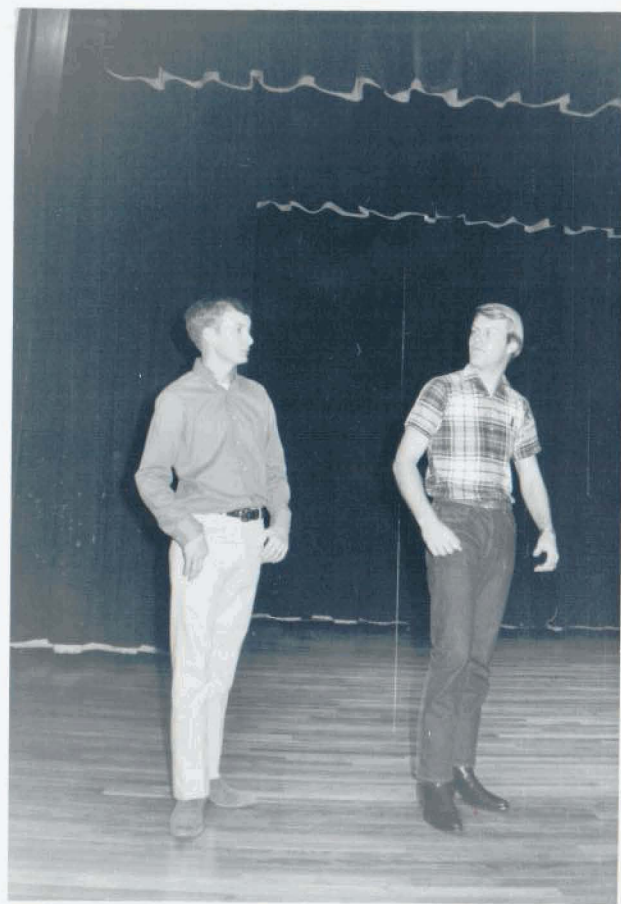


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